Equal Rights

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National Photo.

Votes for Women

Miss Zonia Baber (left), representative in the United States of the women of Porto Rico, consulting with Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews, Legal Research Secretary of the National Woman's Party, on the drafting of a bill for introduction in Congress extending suffrage to the women of Porto Rico.

Feminist Notes

Peeresses' Bill Defeated

THE bill to admit women who are peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords has again been defeated. This time the bill, introduced by Lord Astor, was defeated by a vote of 125 to 80. Last year it was defeated by only two votes, and it was thought that it would be passed this year.

Lady Rhondda, member of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party, and leader of the Six Point Group in England, would have been eligible to the House of Lords had the bill passed. She has conducted a long fight to establish her right to her seat in the upper house of the British Parliament.

From the reports which have reached this country, prejudice against women was the only argument made by opponents of the measure.

Lord Birkenhead and Lord Banbury have been leaders of the opposition, while Lord Astor, author of the bill; the Earl of Reading, Lord Cecil, the Earl of Selborne, Viscount Chelmsford, Baron Hardinge, and several bishops worked for the passage of the measure to grant justice to women peers.

Women Preachers in Germany

WOMEN theological students in Germany have formed themselves into a society and formulated a number of demands in regard to the ministry. The ecclesiastical authorities are now considering the whole question, and the Council of the Union of German Churches has recently sent around a circular to the various churches asking for their opinion on the subject of the ordination of women. The majority of the replies received are in the negative. Most of the churches are against a woman theologian's having the same rights as a clergyman. Some churches are only in favor of allowing a woman to preside over certain biblical studies in the church, to make herself useful in the parish, and to work on behalf of women in prisons and hospitals.

Women Town Councillors in Bucharest

PRINCESS CANTACUCENE, one of the International Council of Women's vice-presidents, and Zoe Romniciano, a member of the National Council of Women of Roumania, have been elected members of the Town Council of Bucharest. They are the first women in Eastern Europe to be elected as town councillors.

Mme. Romniciano is a member of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party. She was present at the Mid-West Conference of the Party in Detroit last year.

Restrictive Legislation in England

THE National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (England) recently asked the Home Secretary to receive a deputation representing women's organizations on the question of the special protection for women embodied in the Lead Paint Bill. The Home Secretary replied that he was quite familiar with the views of the organizations referred to, and that he did not think it necessary that a deputation should attend for the purpose of impressing these views on him. With regard to the Factories Bill, he says, he will be glad to receive a written statement dealing with any special points which are not included in the memorandum on the subject already sent him by the N. U. S. E. C. The National Union has now asked the Home Secretary to reconsider this decision, and requests that a deputation of representative women be granted an opportunity of expressing their views on both the Factories and Lead Paint (protection against poisoning) Bill. The letter points out that organizations which oppose special legislation for women and who believe that legislation should be based upon the nature of the work, and not upon the sex of the worker, have never had an opportunity of laying their views before him, whereas organizations favoring restrictive legislation for women have been received by him.

Suffrage History in Archives

AMONG the material recently received at the archives of the University of Texas is a tattered notebook with the back cover gone, containing the minutes and log of the Austin (Texas) Women's Suffrage Association. The minutes run from December, 1908, to October, 1914.

Shades of the past not so long gone are brought to mind by the words "Votes for Women," which are seen on one of the pages of the book. The roll shows that the association had 39 charter members. Its constitution states the object of the association "shall be to procure equal suffrage with men in Texas."

In the minutes of the second meeting in 1908 is an entry which shows the intention of the new organization to send a petition to request the United States Government to amend the Constitution to permit women to vote.

Woman Minister Inducted

THE induction of the Rev. Joyce Daplyn as assistant minister of all Soul's, Golder's Green (Unitarian), was an interesting ceremony this Whitsuntide in England.

Mrs. Fiske Honored

MINNIE MADDERN FISKE, chairman of the Actresses' Council of the National Woman's Party, received the honorary degree of Master of Arts at the Smith College commencement in June.

Unequal Franchise in Italy

WOMEN in Italy can vote only in the municipal elections for administrative offices, and even there they have to comply with conditions which are not required of men.

Before any woman can claim this vote she must have completed her twenty-fifth year, and must have passed an examination in the minimum elementary course of instruction. This second qualification, however, is not compulsory for any woman coming within the following categories: (1) Mothers or widows of soldiers fallen in the war; (2) women who, as widows or from special circumstances, are in the position of heads of households and legal guardians of their children; (3) women who have been decorated for war service or civic merit; (4) women who pay an annual minimum of one hundred lire in taxes and who can read and write. There are over twelve million women in Italy, but under the above arrangement only about one million women can claim this communal vote.

This inequality may account for the fact that only about 100,000 women have claimed the vote. As their influence can scarcely be felt, perhaps they consider voting under such circumstances only a gesture. Under such qualifications for women voters, they can participate only in the administration of laws, and then not equally with men, and can take no part in the election of lawmakers.

Mrs. Felton's Birthday Celebrated

REBECCA LATIMER FELTON of Cartersville, Georgia, first woman to become a United States Senator, celebrated her ninety-first birthday June 10, in Atlanta.

Close friends of Mrs. Felton gathered at the Women's Club, where a birthday cake with ninety-one gay-hued candles was the feature of a party. Mrs. Felton, who sang in the first opera produced in Atlanta, sang again the old melodies and played her own accompaniment.

In October, 1922, Mrs. Felton was United States Senator for one day. She was appointed by Governor Thomas W. Hardwick to succeed the late Senator Thomas E. Watson.

Mrs. Felton is chairman of the Political Council of the National Woman's Party.

The Industrial Woman in Sweden

By Kerstin Hesselgren

Editor's Note: Miss Hesselgren is a member of the Swedish Riksdag and a foremost Swedish Feminist. She is an authority on social and industrial questions in her country.

IN Sweden we have no special restrictions on women's work, with the exception of the law concerning night work, drawn up in accordance with the Washington Conference. There is, too, paragraph 18 of our Workers' Protection Laws, which forbids women to work under the earth, in quarries, and in mines.

Paragraph 21 gives the King power to prohibit the employment of women in work "which can offer especial danger from accidents, be especially exhausting or unhealthful, or dangerous from a moral point of view." Only one restriction based on this paragraph has been issued by the King, one in 1916 which concerned "women's work in loading, unloading and cleaning vessels." This, however, concerned only minors under twenty-one years of age. With the exception of the law which restricts women's work to hours after 5 A. M. and before 10 P. M., there is no time restriction for industries employing more than ten workers (smaller enterprises are unrestricted).

Just at present we are occupied with investigating the problem of work in shifts in connection with the night work law, for women are objecting to the encroachment upon their freedom of work.

We do not need restrictions concerning work in the porcelain factories. We have extremely little lead poisoning resulting from the use of lead in production. There has never been any question of special provisions for women in the industry. All the rules have concerned all the workers. The Board of Social Directors (Social Styrelse) carried on an investigation in 1922 through Dr. Thorell. It shows that of 71 people employed in a porcelain factory, there was one serious case of lead poisoning, a man, and 16 men and 14 women with lighter cases, which could possibly be chronic lead poisoning. The investigation showed no greater danger for women than for men.

France restricts women's work in 50 different occupations, and to some extent in 16 additional ones. Holland restricts 18. But in the northern countries the tendency has been in quite the opposite direction. This speaks well for the health conditions in our industries, for it is a sign of poverty to be contented with restricting the work of the most susceptible instead of attacking the danger itself.

Time and Tide Comments on the I. W. S. A.

Issue of June 11, 1926.

THE Paris Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance took a momentous step when it decided to refuse the application for affiliation of the National Woman's Party of America. That decision is likely to make history. The attitude and actions of the Alliance in the events which led up to it seem to us so amazing that we prefer not to comment upon them—the effect which they produced in the minds of some of those who witnessed them may be judged from the action of the Six Point Group, which withdrew its application for admission sooner than have part or lot in them. * * *

Yet when we say that the decision of the Alliance will make history, we do not suggest that it will make history within the Alliance itself. So far as the Alliance is concerned the chief effect of its refusal will be to allow it to continue to potter along much as it has done in the past. It had the chance of bringing new life into its ranks and refused it. It will not die on that account, though it may cease to grow. The Alliance made three other decisions which are worth recording. It refused admission to two British Feminist bodies — the National Union of Women Teachers and the League of the Church Militant. Curiously enough it gave as one reason for refusing the N. U. W. T. that it was a professional rather than a Feminist body, whereas in fact—and all the more because it is professional—it is one of the best Feminist organizations which we in Britain possess. Another reason given for both these latter refusals was that the bodies in question were affiliated to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and therefore had representation through it.

The I. W. S. A. made yet another decision of importance. In its chief resolution on Like Conditions of Work the Congress refused, in spite of its own Commission's advice, to advance any further towards equal industrial rights than it had at Rome three years ago. In this matter, as in the matter of the exclusion of the Woman's Party, the Congress took its lead from the National League of Women Voters of America, members of the Alliance who are strongly opposed both to equal industrial rights and to the admission of the Woman's Party, which stands for these rights.

But, as we have said, the Alliance itself is not likely to be seriously affected by any of these decisions. If it had admitted the National Woman's Party, it would have admitted a powerful and effectively organized body which would have done everything possible to persuade it to move more swiftly and more effectively, but it has excluded this body, and it seems likely that it will continue to jog along in peace.

The real effect of the refusal will be felt outside, not inside the Alliance. The decision has given impetus to the new Feminist revival which for some while now has shown signs of life. All over the world today there is taking place a regrouping of Feminists, a revival of faith in the gospel of Feminism, a tendency for Feminists who believe in action rather than in words to foregather, to keep in close touch, to press forward more quickly, to refuse to be dominated by the social reformers. And there is something more than that, there is a reaction against too much talk and the continual re-registering of opinion, a reaction in favor of going ahead more swiftly. The decision of the Alliance to reject the National Woman's Party, in so far as it has helped forward this movement, may be counted for undeniable good.

WE note with some surprise that Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton, writing of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in the *Westminster Gazette,* says that on the whole the women of Great Britain and of the United States stand for protective legislation for women in industry. In point of fact every member of the British delegation, which consisted of twelve persons, voted against protective legislation and in favor of like conditions of work for men and women, whilst the Open Door Council, an organization wholly British in origin, which has been formed with the express object of securing that women shall be free to work and protected as workers on the same terms as men, was active in getting into touch with women of like convictions in other countries. It is true that the American delegation to the Alliance, composed wholly of members of the League of Women Voters, is in favor of protective legislation, but it is also true that the other organization of America, the National Woman's Party, which Mrs. Hamilton describes as a "numerically small body," but which has a membership 100,000 strong, is wholeheartedly opposed to all special protective legislation for women.

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Annual Dues	$10.00
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Subscribing Members	$3.00
Founders	$100.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21. House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 13, 1923, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

Highway Robbery

ALMOST any civilized person, certainly anyone worthy of a position on a school board, would hesitate to steal the salary of one public school teacher for the purpose of giving it to another; yet that is in substance precisely what the Board of Education of Hagerstown, Maryland, did recently in barring married women from employment in the public schools for the purpose of providing positions for unmarried women. It appears that there were some forty unmarried normal school graduates in Hagerstown looking for work, but all the posts in the schools were filled.

With great astuteness the school authorities divined the fact that if they dismissed all the married women teachers they could provide positions for the young, unmarried and inexperienced girls whose appeal reached their hearts. Very kind, of course, but also very unprincipled.

Not only common sense, but court decisions have established the fact that the right to work is as much a property right as is gold or silver or one's toothbrush. Since all property inheres eventually in labor, to deprive a man or a woman of employment without good cause is tantamount to robbery.

The male members of the Hagerstown School Board feebly affirm that they do not believe that a woman can keep house and teach school at the same time. Thus they rationalize their perfidious conduct. But plenty of married school teachers live with their relatives and do not keep house; yet they with the others come under the rule.

It appears to us that in this as in many other matters affecting married women the authorities far exceed their proper jurisdiction. The school board is authorized to use public monies to pay certain professional persons for teaching school. If these persons fulfill their contract and teach school properly, we cannot see what business of the school board it is whether they marry or not. Unmarried women often keep house and do it very nicely, even when they teach school, but school boards seem to feel it their right to dip into domestic arrangements of their employes only when one marries a man.

If any teacher, married or single, male or female, neglects his or her professional obligations for domestic or other reasons, we are quite agreed that the position should be declared vacant and that some other less burdened or more conscientious individual should have the post. We do not believe in coddling married women, or for the matter of that, married men.

On the other hand to deprive any person of work, and more especially of professional work requiring long and special training, just because she commits matrimony, seems to us nothing less than legalized larceny.

Once upon a time the school board in another town in Maryland, namely, Baltimore City, barred married women from the schools. Women could not keep house and teach school at the same time, it was alleged. But now all that is changed. The teachers' equal rights bill effected the transformation.

Women teachers all over the country are undergoing a discipline similar to that imposed by the Hagerstown Board of Education. They are discriminated against not only on the ground of marriage, but in assignment, promotion and compensation as well. It would take hundreds, nay thousands, of local Equal Rights bills to correct these injustices. Why dissipate the energy that would be required to pass all these local bills when an Equal Rights Amendment to the Federal Constitution would at one blow set the whole situation straight?

Women's Skirts to be Forgotten

THE Paris edition of the New York *Herald* recently carried the following amusing story on the matter of women's clothes:

Booth Tarkington, the author, disagrees with Paris professional women on the subject of mannish clothes for women. He said that he believed that in fifty years the skirt as an article of woman's apparel would be practically forgotten. From his summer home at Kennebunkport, Maine, he expatiated:

"The skirt is merely a relic already and there is no real reason for it. I expect to see the time when women will wear garments made approximately in the same fashion as those of men. Modesty is an element that does not enter into the question. Women are determined to have *equality with men, in clothes as well as otherwise.*"

We rejoice that so profound a student of human nature as Mr. Tarkington thus interprets the signs of the times.

Woman Suffrage in Porto Rico

By Zonia Baber

Editor's Note.—Miss Baber was for 20 years on the faculty of the University of Chicago as Associate Professor of the teaching of geography and geology. She is Chairman of the Pan-American Committee of the International League for Peace and Freedom, and in that connection has made a tour extending over a period of six months through South America. She was a member of the recent Commission sent by the Women's International League to Haiti. Miss Baber is now engaged in the preparation of a report on the relation of the people of the United States to the Island.

THE women of Porto Rico now call to us for help. They wish to take part in the autonomy that a Commission of Porto Rican men are here to secure from Congress. The Porto Rican Legislature has refused to give suffrage to women, notwithstanding the fact that the Organic Act states:

"That at the first election held pursuant to this Act the qualified electors shall be those having the qualifications of voters under the present law. Thereafter voters shall be citizens of the United States twenty-one years of age or over and have such additional qualifications as may be prescribed by the Legislature of Porto Rico: *Provided,* That no property qualification shall ever be imposed upon or required of any voter."

Representatives of the Liga Social Sufragista of Puerto Rico and of the Asociacion Puertorriguena de Mujeres Sufragistas who recently held a convention at the Condado Vanderbilt Hotel, San Juan, Porto Rico.

A test case was brought before the Supreme Court of Porto Rico. The decision handed down stated that since the Nineteenth Amendment was not in force when the Organic Act was passed, it does not apply to Porto Rico.

When the suffrage bill came before the Porto Rican Legislature, the antis gave the same old mummified arguments against suffrage that prevailed in this country many years ago. It will be very difficult to secure suffrage through the Porto Rican Legislature as the subject has passed, with a majority of the legislators, from the plane of reason to that of emotion. The suffragists now hope to have "Votes for Women" included in the changes to be made in the Organic Act giving the Island greater power in the election of its officers. It is hoped that these changes will be made at the coming December Congress. A bill giving suffrage to all persons over twenty-one years of age who have never voted (illiterates who have voted will not be disfranchised) will satisfy the men favorable to suffrage, although many women regret the unequal treatment with men. There are at present three groups of women working for suffrage in Porto Rico—the Asociacion Puertorriquena de Mujeres Sufragistas, Isabel A. Aguilar, president; Beatriz Lasalle, secretary; the Liga Social Sufragista Asociacion de Puertorriquena, president Mrs. Ramos Casellas, secretary Dr. Marta Robert. Mrs. Milagres Benet de Mewton leads another group. All have the same end in view, although there is a difference in method of work. There is a conservative and a radical wing, as obtained in this country during our suffrage campaign. Both groups came together on April 14, 1926, at a beautiful tea given by them at the Condado Vanderbilt Hotel, to which I was graciously invited. At this meeting Mrs. Ramos Casellas gave the following account of the Liga Social Sufragista:

"We wish to tell you the history of our association, the oldest of all the suffragist associations established on the island.

"It originated from the need we had of banding together to reclaim our rights; from the great necessity we have that we be considered the rightful halves of our community.

"In the year 1917 a group of women led by the distinguished matron Dona Ana Roque and the never-forgotten Mercedes Sola, formed this gathering, which was then called 'Feminine League.' Later, however, following the evolution of progress, the name was changed to the one it now bears.

"Nearly all those who have been their presidents are present—Miss Lassalle, Mrs. Negron, Mrs. Bellber, Dr. Robert, and the one who has the honor to be speaking to you. The venerable matron is the only one absent, Dona Ana Roque, to whom we feel an immense gratitude.

"We have all worked to obtain our rights. Year after year we have sought it from the Legislature, but the men cannot resolve to be just, and, even against their own conscience, either for the convenience of their party or because of personal egotism, they deny us what is ours—suffrage.

"We have submitted a questionnaire to our Senators and Representatives which could be answered in four monosyllables. Nevertheless, many of them have refused to answer it. The reason is that they do not wish to favor us because of the demands of their party.

"We can prove that the Porto Rican woman is prepared by our schools just as well as or better than the men. In our country ninety-five per cent. of the education is entrusted to the women. It is absurd to say that a woman is not prepared; she teaches her pupils to make use of the electoral rights, but cannot make use of them herself.

"We cannot expect the wealthy women to take the initiative in this movement for the following reasons:

"1. Because the great social movements, the great strides toward progress and civilization, have never started with the higher and moved to the lower classes, from the rich to the poor; but they have always sprung from the lower and then gradually spread to the higher classes.

"2. Because they know not of the suffering and needs of the people. They live comfortably in their luxurious mansions and forget that there are many that live in huts and are in need of bread for their children; those women who tread pleasant places and lead a life of being agreeable are not interested in suffrage. Perhaps they will be the first ones to use suffrage after we have worked for it, but they will exercise this privilege without a conscientious knowledge of what they are doing, for they do not know how much it has cost. Most likely they may be the only women not prepared to exercise this privilege, because of the comfortable lives they had led and their indifference to the ordinary women of the people who

suffer, who are in need, who are ignored.

"For all these reasons and because of the current of sympathy established between yourself and us, we want and we have asked you to be our representative before Congress, so that now, when a commission from Porto Rico visits Washington to ask for certain reforms in our Organic Act, you and your Association will ask that among these reforms suffrage for the Porto Rican women be included. If we succeed in getting Congress to reform our Organic Act in this respect or to extend to this island the Nineteenth Amendment, as it has the Eighteenth, or to approve the Equal Rights Amendment, then we shall truly say that the American Flag waves over only free people. All the women members of this association desire and ask you to be in that metropolis, the voice of our civilization, to speak of the injustice with which we are treated by those who seek more liberties, more self-government, more voice in our beloved government, but only for men and by men!"

The Great Rejection: Part III

By Crystal Eastman

"IF you vote for the Woman's Party, it is a vote for the future! If you vote against them it is a vote for the past!"

With these words Lady Rhondda had ended her two-minute challenge to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance during the brief debate allowed before the delegates were called upon to vote on the question of the admission of the National Woman's Party. And it was with these words ringing in our ears that we listened to the taking of the vote, and heard the final verdict, 123 to 49 against us.

When we left the Congress Hall and drifted out into the streets of Paris (sunny for the moment), it was with a sense of elation rather than of defeat. *"The future is with us,"* that was the burden of our thought and conversation.

On the next day which was Tuesday, June 1, the sense of elation, mysteriously, had grown rather than diminished. When, that afternoon, we went to greet Mrs. Belmont at the Gare St. Lazare, on her arrival from America, we were feeling so cheerful that she could hardly believe the story of our defeat.

On Wednesday, June 2, the Woman's Party group had arranged a small luncheon in honor of Mrs. Belmont and Lady Rhondda at the Restaurant Laurent. It was a "last moment affair," organized in less than forty-eight hours, perhaps with the idea that we would like to console and consult with each other, and with some of our new-found friends among the delegates after our rejection by the International.

Now, strange to say, this affair refused to observe the decencies of the occasion and express a little solemnity and regret. There was an irrepressible note of triumph about it from start to finish. There were some 125 women present, of whom about twenty-five were of our own party, perhaps a dozen were Americans visiting in Paris, and the rest were delegates from the congress. At least six of the national presidents came, possibly more. And there was Mme. Maria Verone, president of La Ligue des Droits des Femmes, which is not affiliated with the International. In all fourteen different nations were represented.

Mme. Verone, who spoke first because she had to hurry off to an important case, is a French "avocat" known for her eloquence. She had read of our rejection by the International but declared it nothing to be discouraged about. "They call you extremists," she said, "but I am head of an organization which has taken the same position your society takes for thirty years. I am with you altogether in your demand for full equality in the industrial sphere as in every other."

Mrs. Belmont's words of greeting to those who had gathered in her honor, contained no hint of regret, no suggestion of indignation, indeed, no reference whatever to the action of the International Alliance in refusing membership to the Woman's Party. She was a general reviewing her troops, greeting new allies, admonishing all to go forward, strong in the faith and confident of the end. I quote what Mrs. Belmont said in full:

"As president of the National Woman's Party, I am most happy to welcome our Feminist colleagues and friends from many countries. One of the purposes of our coming to Paris at this time was to make closer and more intimate ties, as well as to make more effective contacts, with those who feel as we do about the great importance of this woman movement. This our organization has done. Working friendships which will endure even after we have returned to our respective countries.

"It is a heartening sign indeed to see stirring among women throughout the world a wholesome impatience against our subjection. And we ought to be more impatient than we are. There is no virtue in sitting quietly by and accepting the slow processes of the evolution of an idea. If we choose we can greatly accelerate these processes. We of the National Woman's Party work to hasten the day when women throughout the world shall stand as equal partners with men in the great adventure of life.

"We look to the day when the present hostility to women's fullest creative deelopment shall be wiped away, to the day when women's contributions will be accepted in friendly encouragement.

"It is of paramount importance that in this century when the nations of the world are endeavoring to achieve closer understanding and co-operation, the voice of women in all international councils shall speak with authority.

"Have confidence in your own judgment; trust yourselves; do not listen to the voice of fear; speak out your minds, speak out your opinions. Even though those opinions differ from those of your neighbors, silence in face of injustice is unworthy. Let us all together bear witness, everytime we are called upon to do so, that we will not cease for a single day until all women are completely emancipated."

The next speaker was our other guest of honor, Viscountess Rhondda, whose address appeared in EQUAL RIGHTS June 19. I must say a few words about this remarkable woman who played such a large part in our Paris adventure. (To begin with I am sorry she is a viscountess; my ancient American revolutionary forbears and my modern proletarian revolutionary sympathies are agreed in protesting against hereditary titles. As they have never agreed about anything else, I can't help mentioning it.)

Margaret Thomas, now Lady Rhondda, was the only child of David Alfred Thomas, owner of large coal properties in the Rhondda Valley, South Wales. Thomas was a distinguished Welsh Liberal, a rare personality, and an exceedingly gifted administrator. He was given a peerage in recognition of his great serice to the country as food controller during the war, but consented to accept the title only on condition that it should be inherited in the female line. When Viscount Rhondda died shortly after the war he left to his daughter not only his title but full possession, direction and control of his extensive properties, exactly as though she had been a son.

Lady Rhondda was passionately devoted to her father. For some months after his death she gave herself up to writing and compiling the story of his life, and created a beautiful book, worthy of him and worthy of her. Then she turned wholeheartedly to Feminism. All her gifts, all her dreams, all her ambitions have since then been concerned with the cause of making women free.

She founded the Six Point Group and through it has played a live part in getting the various post-war Feminist measures through Parliament. She made her

fight to get into the House of Lords. She founded *Time and Tide,* the brilliant Feminist weekly of which she is co-editor with Helen Archdale. In all this work she has shown herself to be an effective, political writer, a humorous and original speaker, and as an administrator, shrewd, swift and decisive.

I have given this brief account of Lady Rhondda because it should be known in America how significant was her withdrawal of the Six Point Group application for membership in the International at this time. It should be realized from what a background of power and achievement and distinction she speaks.

The Woman's Party never had a tribute more generous, more deeply understanding than that paid by Lady Rhondda at the Restaurant Laurent on June 2. A good deal of our sense of joy and success on that occasion came from her mood. She is young, not much more than forty—a lovable person, shy and rather beautiful. And she looks as fresh and strong and confident and happy as though she had just begun her working life.

Lady Rhondda learned her Feminism at the militants' school and has never lost their fire. She loves to laugh. She loves to fight. When she calls upon the real Feminists of the world to find each other it is the call of a comrade. Perhaps it is the call of a leader, too.

There were many other speakers at our luncheon that day, and all of the same opinion, i. e., that something had come out of the application of the Woman's Party and its rejection that would mean more to the future of Feminism than our admission to the International Alliance would have meant. We listened to words of encouragement from Greece, Spain, and Egypt as well as from France and England. A number of our own group responded, Abby Scott Baker (who was in the chair), Anne Martin, Anita Pollitzer, Florence Bayard Hilles — all in very good form.

But perhaps the most memorable words spoken were those of Elsie Hill, who brought us word of an actual battle over protective legislation during these very days while the congress was debating the issue.

France has adopted the highly benevolent night work convention established by the International Labour Office of the League of Nations. As one result all women telephone operators have been taken off and men put in their places. What does this mean for the women? It means that they work during the seven busiest hours at a nerve-racking occupation without relief, while the men, coming on at nine o'clock in the evening take the seven easiest hours during which they have two hours off for rest and are paid 3,000 francs more per year than the women. On the night before our luncheon the women telephone operators, who are organizing against this outrage, held a meeting which was broken up by the men's union.

This news, straight from the industrial field gave point and purpose to all our talk. It made sharp and clear the need for a Feminist party of action in the international field. Those Paris telephone girls are fighting an *international* tyranny. There is no international body of women to speak for them, much less to fight for them.

Lady Rhondda was quite right when she said that the majority of the delegates to the I. W. S. A. were social reformers and that they rejected us because we were Feminists. But I think that was not the only reason. The British delegates, the Scandinavians, are in intellectual conviction, as "extreme" Feminists as the members of the Woman's Party. In the language of their resolutions they are as uncompromising enemies of "protection" as we. Yet they live in amity with the League of Women Voters and the other reformist groups in the Alliance. The trouble with the Woman's Party is that in addition to the purity of its Feminism it has a capacity and reputation for *action.* They were more afraid of what we would do than of what we would think.

The expedition of the Woman's Party to Paris has demonstrated that there is at present no Feminist international with a purpose and plan of action. * * * * * The future is ours!

Notes on a Visit to Headquarters

By Vera Brittain

Editor's Note: Miss Brittain is a prominent leader in the Six Point Group of Great Britain. She has recently been in the United States lecturing and writing in connection with International Relations, and was a visitor at the National Headquarters.

THE headquarters of the National Woman's Party is a delicious surprise to the average city-dwelling visitor. Being a Londoner living temporarily in New York, I did not know that Washington in the springtime was a miracle of cherry blossom and purple Chinese magnolia. As for the head offices of associations, I had hitherto been accustomed to look for them on the fifth floor of grey buildings in London's Victoria Street, or on the twentieth story of skyscrapers in Times Square. The last delight that I expected to find on Capitol Hill was a quiet house, mellow with historic memories, set in a fragrant garden where trees and shrubs were gaily adorning themselves in their new spring garments.

Here—or so it seems to an English woman—all that is best in America meets and mingles; the rich serenity of an atmosphere which represents age to the New World though it still spells immaturity for the Old, and the dauntless determination of a young people who come fresh to combats which sometimes leave their European ancestors a little worn and weary.

It is here that the women of America have the advantage over us in Europe; they are able to bring a new spirit to redress the balance of an old struggle, and demand as a sex a declaration of independence as uncompromising as that once made by their nation. We, who departed somewhat hastily from this continent a century and a half ago, left much behind us besides our speech by which to be remembered, and one of our superfluous legacies was our old habit of masculine domination in all the things that mattered. American women have already battled with this hoary convention more successfully than we have fought it ourselves. Besides the achievement of an equal franchise, such as England has not yet attained, there is already much real economic independence in America, and, in spite of greater domestic difficulties, a recognized freedom of action for married women which English writers, in such novels as Miss Storm Jamesson's "Three Kingdoms," still discuss as a cause not yet judged.

Yet here in America, as all over the civilized world, there remains a campaign which, both in spirit and in detail, bears an astonishing resemblance to our own. In England the sponsors of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act were careful to leave themselves every possible opportunity of taking away in practice what had been given to women in theory. In Germany, in Czecho-Slovakia, in Austria, in Hungary—where I made tours of inquiry in 1924 and 1925—I found that the sovereign people, swayed for a short while by pseudo-Feminist emotion—had also crowned woman with a paper crown which conferred upon her about as much real power as that of a constitutional monarch. Post-war reaction, economic distress, militaristic sentimentality had beaten upon her cardboard palace until it fell.

In prosperous America, however—far as she was from the actual stage-properties of the war, superior as she has since been able to remain to all the ebbs and flows of emotion and reactionary prejudice which have wrecked and ruined Europe—I have been surprised to find the same deceptive shadow of universal Feminism and the same unsubstantial substance. This discovery makes me hopeful, none

the less; for it proves that anti-Feminism is a mental habit due to lazy thinking rather than to economic circumstance, although the one may, of course, be fostered by the other. And I firmly believe that it is easier to change—or to ignore—the souls of men than to alter or to ignore their circumstances. Circumstances are clamorous and demand at least temporary consideration, but people — as Olive Schreiner once said—are plastic and indifferent, yielding easily before one who passes straight through them with eyes fixed steadily upon a visualized goal.

American women, unencumbered by the handicaps which burden their sisters in Europe, possess this ability to walk direct and free, while the National Woman's Party, united, and uncompromising as their leader, have the eyes that see the goal.

News from the Field

The Garden Wins Again

FOR the second time this season the National Woman's Party garden has won a first prize for displays of its flowers. The blue ribbon for a display of unusual flowers was awarded the Woman's Party's bouquet of summer flowers at the show of the American Horticultural Society at the Washington Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Edith Ainge, to whom belongs most of the credit for developing the lovely garden which has been the scene of so many successful Feminist gatherings, arranged the bouquet. In it was a very rare wild rose, sweet lavender, an unusual species of begonia, and several other gay varieties of garden flowers.

The first prize for iris was won by the National Woman's Party's entry in the American iris show earlier in the season. Miss Ainge also arranged this display.

The garden was the scene Wednesday of the welcome to the National Woman's Party's fraternal delegates who returned from the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Paris.

Maryland Branch Begins Summer Work

JUNE time in Maryland and all that it implies brought to the Maryland State Branch a series of pleasurable hospitalities. On Tuesday, June 1, the members journeyed out to Graham Place, the wonderful old country seat of Louise Natali Graham, near historic Ellicott City.

Louise Malloy, well-known writer and journalist, made an address, and a delightful supper was served on the big rambling porches with true Southern hospitality by the hostess. Before leaving, the pleasure of the afternoon was enhanced for the guests by the artistic rendering of some old songs by Mrs. Graham.

On Tuesday, June 22, a card party was given at Upland, Roland Park, the beautiful home of Dr. and Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, with its charming view of the famous Mount Washington Valley. Socially and financially the party was a huge success. Vera Fowler Lewis was chairman, and the proceeds, over fifty dollars, were for the maintenance committee, of which Mrs. Graham is chairman for Maryland. The merchants of Baltimore contributed most generously to the financial success by their donations of prizes. Representatives from the Business and Professional Woman's Club, the Secondary Teachers' Association, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and society women all added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

On Wednesday, June 30, about thirty-five members motored over to Washington to attend the reception tendered the returned delegates from the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in the beautiful garden of National Headquarters. The trip was one of great encouragement and inspiration, and every one who journeyed thither came back full of hope and enthusiasm.

The summer recess is on, but the members drowse not during recess time.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EDITH AINGE, *Treasurer*

NETTIE TRAIL: *C. P. A., Auditor.*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to May 1, 1926, $1,335,051.87.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, May 1 to 15, 1926:

Mrs. Effa Funk Muhse, D. C.	$5.00
Mrs. Julia S. Trask, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. A. P. Mills, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Isabel M. Hopkins, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Lucy Harris Murphy, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. H. A. Whiteside, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. E. Alice Holman, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. H. W. Reitzell, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. R. S. Gifford, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Augustus H. Grunewald, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Paria Page Ward, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Olive I. Bondies, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Marie B. Grunewald Fitch, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Mabel Marie Sievert, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Harry Coleman, Calif.	1.00
Dr. Lillian M. Whiting, Calif.	10.00
Mrs. T. B. Shreve, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Alice Bird Hunter, Calif.	1.00
Elsie Hill-Levitt, Conn.	5.00
Miss Elizabeth Stepan, D. C.	5.00
Miss Julia Jennings, Va.	5.00
Miss Isabella M. Bronk, Pa.	5.00
Mrs. Lee Loeb, S. C.	10.00
Miss Mabel Law, D. C.	10.00
Cleveland Branch	25.00
Mrs. Annie W. Mahood, Pa.	10.00
Mrs. Ruth Silliman, Colo.	5.00
Miss Carol Truax, Colo.	5.00
Dr. Margaret Long, Colo.	10.00
Miss Katherine Courtney, Colo.	10.00
Mrs. E. G. Davis, Colo.	5.00
Per Colorado Branch:	
(Colorado Branch retaining one-half)	
Miss Vanita Trovinger	.50
Miss Marian Hathaway	.50
Mrs. Ethel M. Harper	.50
Mrs. Alice Adams Fulton	.50
Miss Mabel S. Bateman	.50
Miss Ruth Bateman	.50
Miss Lillian Bateman	.50
Mrs. Rowena D. Graves	.50
Dr. Minnie E. Staines	.50
Mrs. Richard Franchot, D. C.	1.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa.	5.00
Mrs. Mildred V. Davis, D. C.	2.00
Miss Alice Brady, N. Y.	25.00
Mr. James Whittemore, Calif.	50.00
Mrs. J. H. Smith, Texas	10.00
Mrs. Marcus Daly, N. Y.	100.00
Mrs. Walter Richard, N. Y.	100.00
Mrs. Emil J. Stehle, N. Y.	10.00
Miss Vera Havemeyer, N. Y.	10.00
Mrs. C. L. Heebner, N. Y.	10.00
Mrs. Percy J. Ebbott, Conn.	10.00
Mrs. Martha K. O. Vietor, N. Y.	10.00
Syracuse Branch, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. Ada R. Wolff, N. Y.	10.00
Mrs. Florence E. Ranger, N. Y.	10.00
Miss Elizabeth Fairall, D. C.	5.00
Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, N. Y.	1,000.00
Miss Marian M. Furbank, N. Y.	1.00
Mrs. Valentine Winters, Ohio	10.00
Dr. Cora Smith King, Calif.	10.00
Mrs. Marian M. Oliver, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Caroline Dunshee, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Marjorie C. Murphy, Calif.	1.00
Mrs. Julie M. Ritzius, Tenn.	1.00
New York State Branch	25.00
Mrs. Gertrude B. Mossell, Pa.	10.00
Mrs. Tracy Edson, N. Y.	6.70
Mr. William K. Vanderbilt, N. Y.	5,000.00
Mrs. Ella Leib Darby, Md.	10.00
Miss Harriet C. Foss, N. Y.	2.00
Per New York City Committee:	
(New York City Com. retaining one-half)	
Miss Ellen Abbott	5.00
Mrs. Alma J. Foster	.50
Mrs. Walter Howes	.50
Mrs. Michael Pym	.50
Mrs. Stanwood Menken	5.00
Mrs. William Kent, Calif.	105.00
Mrs. James Hamilton Morton, Calif.	25.00
Dr. Margaret Long, Calif.	15.00
Collection Palo Alto Meeting	28.00
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	356.00
Telephone receipts	20.75
EQUAL RIGHTS subscriptions	19.00
Sale of 50-50 pins	30.00
Sale of "Jailed for Freedom"	2.10
Sale of membership cards and literature	2.00
Sale of postage	.30
Sale of prison pin	7.50
Refunds	3.90
Total Receipts of National Headquarters	$7,243.25
Per Equal Rights Committee:	
Mrs. William Kent, Calif.	$100.00
Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, Pa.	22.50
Miss Sara P. Grogan, D. C.	10.00
Dr. Donald R. Hooker, Md.	200.00
Total Receipts Equal Rights Committee	332.50
Total Receipts May 1 to 15, 1926	$7,575.75
Total Receipts December 7, 1912, to May 15, 1926	$1,342,627.62

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